

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



December 2016
No. 444

Editorial

Well if you believe what they are saying on facebook (if it is on facebook it must be true – eh?!), then we will be enduring a harder winter with snow and ice than we have since for many years - with a lot of us remembering 1963, we shall see! So whatever the weather throws at us what better to do on a cold winter's night than curl up with you copy of Wedmore News.

For the more adventurous amongst you and those recognising a glimmer of irony, you will notice that all this is an introduction to what the Parish of Wedmore can offer you during the dark days of December and the bright lights of Christmas. Many of the activities are annual events in the local calendar, including Wedmore by Lamplight, all the church services, Christmas concerts and not forgetting the famous – or infamous revelation of who the 2016 Turnip Prize winner will be.

For me, I like the idea of being in front of the fire with some wool to knit and crochet with; well at my time of life I really ought to try and master one or the other, so I am off to join the new knitting and quilting group.

This will be my last editorial as editor of Wedmore News. After almost three years it is time to hand over the reins to someone new. Bill Sutton who is currently another member of the editorial team will be taking on the duties, so fortunately it will be business as usual. I would like to thank everyone involved in producing Wedmore

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The Isle of Wedmore News welcomes all contributions and letters. It should be noted however that the views expressed are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, or represent any particular standpoint on the part of the publication.

Wedmore News is digital! Each edition (without adverts) will be published on The Isle of Wedmore Website, www.theisleofwedmore.net. If you are a contributor who for copyright reasons does not want your entry included, please make this clear when sending it to the editor.

The editors also reserve the right to edit or amend any contribution for reasons of space, conformity, legibility or legality.

News for their support during my stint and thank you the readers for the many positive comments and feedback that we have received.

Liz, Bill and I, the Wedmore News editorial team and the committee of Wedmore News would like to take this opportunity to thank all our contributors both regular and occasional for their input to Wedmore News over the year. It is you who make Wedmore News happen. We wish you and all our readers a Very Happy Christmas.

Sue James

Front Cover

Some winter sunshine to cheer us up in this photo taken by Dawn Pallant on the road from Draycott to Wedmore,

News

Parish Council Business

The monthly meeting in October was quite a lengthy affair, mainly due to an update on the consideration of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. Over 150 residents attended a consultation session at the village hall earlier in the month and the Committee Chairman, Bob Selwood, informed the members that the subsequent ballot had shown a majority of residents in favour of proceeding further down the road towards preparing a Plan. This resulted in quite a discussion among the members. There were concerns about whether the turn-out was a true reflection, proposed costs etc. It was subsequently agreed that the Committee could go forward to the next stage which will lead to further public consultation and discussion in the New Year.

The Allotment Committee has recently held two meetings on site to discuss issues raised by some allotment holders. There is an obvious need for some serious hedge-cutting to ease access along the far side of the site where several plots are encroached by vegetation. This will require specialised equipment and we are currently obtaining quotations for the work to be completed. If you wish to take on an allotment in Combe Lane, please contact the Clerk for details.

Members once again agreed to fund the purchase of Christmas trees for local churches and businesses and also to fund some street entertainment for the 'Wedmore by Lamplight' event taking place on 14 December.

Finally, on behalf of all the members of the Parish Council, may I wish you and your families a most enjoyable Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Rod Pring

*Wedmore Parish Council, Grants Lane, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4EA
Telephone 713087, Email wedmoreparishcouncil@gmail.com*

Wedmore Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan event on 7 October was reported in the last Wedmore News. The outcome was that 75.1% of those who voted wanted a Neighbourhood Plan prepared for Wedmore.

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This was considered by the Parish Council at its October meeting and it was decided to proceed with the Plan. However, it was recognised that the process needs to be transparent. In view of this:

- no-one promoting land can be on the Group;
- all Group members need to complete a declaration of interests that will be available on www.wedmore.online.

The Neighbourhood Plan Group met on 1 November and agreed that the next step would be a survey questionnaire which will be sent to every household in the Parish. This is likely to be circulated in January 2017. Once the results have been received and analysed, we aim to report the results back to the community via another public event in the late spring.

We are keen that the group represents the whole community, so we would be particularly keen to have some younger people on the Group - it is your future - have a say!

Bob Sellwood

Donations to local charitable causes

Once again the committee of Wedmore News will be considering applications for donations to support groups, clubs and charities in the civil parish of Wedmore. If your organisation would benefit from an additional one- off small cash grant then we would like to hear from you. Please let us know:

1. The name of your club / group / organisation / charity;
2. The aims of the organisation;
3. What you would use the money for;
4. Contact name, email and telephone number.

Please submit your application by Thursday 2 February 2017. Applications will be considered at the next Wedmore News committee meeting which will be held on Thursday 16 February 2017. For further information or to submit an application please contact Sue James, susan.james21@btinternet.com

Sue James

Wedmore News – Help is Urgently Needed

Distribution

We are still looking for someone to take on the role of distributor for Wedmore News. Could you offer a few hours each month? The role involves:

- accepting delivery of 1800 copies of the magazine on or near the 25th day of each month;
- dividing these into set amounts for each of the 30 local distributors - including payment for some;
- delivering the magazines to the local distributors and to a few business premises between Mark Post Office and Cheddar Library.

Remuneration is available for fuel costs only.

If you are interested in taking on this role please contact Glenys Cousins, telephone 712565 or email cousins389@btinternet.com

Glenys Cousins

Wedmore News Requires a Third Editor for the Editorial Team

Now that I am handing over my role to Bill Sutton, Wedmore News really needs a third person to help out with editorial duties. This will involve covering the work of other editors if necessary and undertaking proof reading on a monthly basis.

This role is not onerous but will require a few hours of your time per month.

For more information please contact Bill Sutton, editorwedmorenews@gmail.com, telephone 07572 865763.

Sue James

Wilfred Webb

Wilfred passed away peacefully on 29 September. Sincere thanks to everyone who has helped and supported us both over several years, especially Revd Richard Neill, Dr Jackson-Voyzey and many good friends, too numerous to mention but you know who you are! All the letters and cards were also very much appreciated. Donations in memory of Wilfred have been given to the Dementia Society and the Gurkha Benevolent Fund.

Peggy Webb

Wedmore by Lamplight – Wednesday 14 December from 6.00- 9.00pm

Yes it's that wonderful time of year again! Anyone who loves Christmas will want to add this date to their diary as Christmas will officially start in Wedmore with the delightful evening of Wedmore by Lamplight. All the traditional favourites will be here, starting with the St. Mary's Church crib service at 6.00pm together with the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree. The wonderful Wedmore shops will be open for the evening from 6.00-9.00pm offering a multitude of delights and the centre of Wedmore will be alive with traditional merriment of pig roasts and mulled wine! All whilst Burtle Band plays traditional carols to get us all full of festive spirit. Once again Father Christmas has said he is looking forward to visiting Wedmore and of course he will be bringing his reindeer! It really is a great evening for everyone young or old and we hope to see you at what is sure to be a fantastic night!

For more information on the evening please contact Joseph, at 2J's Travel, telephone 713714, or email joseph@2jstravel.com

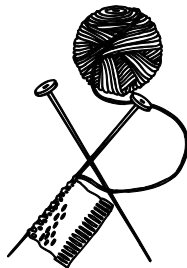
Joseph Rajkovic

New Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Group

A new stitching group welcomes participants of all ages and abilities. We are a happy, friendly group of like-minded folk who enjoy all forms of stitching, knitting, crochet and natter. Don't be shy, come and join us. Contact Lesley, telephone 710134, or Julia, telephone 713021 or email julia@sparkyknitters.co.uk for more information. There will be workshops if desired.

Bring along a current project, start a new one or ask us to show you how, at the Scout Hut, Combe Lane, Wedmore, on Monday morning from 9.30am -12.00 noon (currently term time only). The cost is £3 per week.

Julia Jones



Ethel Pople Deceased Charity and The Wedmore Charities

The late Ethel Pople, formerly of The Old Smithy, Cocklake, Wedmore, who died in 1978, left a trust under her will for the assistance of the elderly and / or infirm of Cocklake, Clewer and Wedmore to be called 'The Ethel Pople Trust' in honour of 'Our Blessed Lady of Wedmore'. Every year invitations are requested by the trustees from those who think they may qualify with a view to distribution of trust income.

The trustees of the Wedmore Charities, an entirely separate Trust, also make annual distributions of trust income, predominantly to those within the parish who fall within the same definition, in other words, the elderly and / or infirm.

The trustees of both charities meet in December each year with a view to deciding how their combined distributions can be applied for the greater benefit of those entitled each year.

The trustees of both the Ethel Pople Trust and the Wedmore Charities therefore invite written application from those who qualify under the terms of these Trusts with a view to distribution of the trust income in December 2016. Letters should state briefly the basis on which the applicants qualify, i.e. whether by a reason of age or infirmity and with any other relevant information as to the applicants' circumstances that they feel able to give.

Please note that if you have applied successfully before the Trustees would like you to provide written confirmation that your circumstances have not changed.

The trustees of both charities will consider applications early in December with a view to distribution of Trust income before Christmas.

Applications should be addressed to the Ethel Pople and Wedmore Charities Trustees, John Hodge Solicitors, Cheddar Road, Wedmore BS28 4EH.

James Avery

The Children's Society Box Opening – Saturday 3 December

The Annual Box Opening for the Children's Society will take place in St Mary's Church, starting at 10.00am. All box holders and friends are invited to come along to St Mary's Church to enjoy a cup of coffee and browse the Christmas Market whilst your box is opened and the contents are counted. Children's Society Christmas cards will also be on sale.



For those unable to attend on 3 December, please bring your box to Sue Burton at Combe Cottage, Combe Batch, by Thursday 1 December.

The Children's Society helps many young people in the UK. It is currently concentrating on giving support to vulnerable youngsters leaving a childhood in social care to join the adult world. If you would like to become a box holder, and new collectors are urgently needed, please contact Sue Burton on 712092. All you have to do as a box holder is to either put in a regular amount or just your loose change from time to time. It is surprising how one and two pence pieces soon add up!

As an alternative, if you do not wish to have a box of coins lying around the house, you can arrange to make regular payments to The Children's Society by Direct Debit. If you would like to sign up to this scheme, please contact me.

Sue Burton

Blackford Village Hall Needs a Treasurer

Blackford Village Hall, which many of you will know had a major refurbishment completed three years ago, is now an excellent facility, extremely popular and well-used, and is providing a tremendous resource for the village, and beyond. The Hall is run, as are most Village Halls, by a small committee who meet approximately every three months for a couple of hours, to ensure that things are running as they should and to take any decisions necessary for the Hall's future. This is not an onerous task and, thankfully, due to regular bookings and careful management, the Hall's finances are healthy and there is funding to carry out all the day-to-day tasks required.



The current committee is small in number and most of those on it have served for many years. There is always a need for new members and, in particular, the current Treasurer stood down at the AGM last month. Whilst temporary cover is being provided in this role, the Hall committee needs a Treasurer to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission, as well, of course, for the Hall to run in practical day-to-day terms. It is therefore essential that the post is filled. It is not a particularly challenging role, doesn't need any professional financial skills, and requires no more than a couple of hours a month. The last Treasurer will be able to provide a handover.

If you feel that you can spare the time to help out on the committee and particularly in the Treasurer's role, in order to ensure that this wonderful village resource can continue, please contact either the Chair, Steve Bloomer, telephone 440015, email steve.bloomer@springboardit.co.uk or Vice Chair, Nigel Morton, telephone 712213, email npbmorton@gmail.com for further information. Please consider doing so and, particularly if you have used the Hall and benefitted from what it provides, join others in giving some of your time to ensure that the Hall can continue to run for the benefit of the village.

Thank you.

Nigel Morton

AGM of the Wedmore Village Hall – Report from Chairman

I took over the chairmanship in 2007 and as stated last year I'm standing down after nine years so this will be my last meeting.

In preparation for the writing of this report I read up on previous reports including those of my predecessor Alison Champion. Her last report was for 2007 and if I may quote a passage from it, "It has to be said that the committee has operated last year with a small dedicated group of members and we would urge better representation

from regular users of the hall to have more feedback as to what they would like done to the hall.”

In 2008, again a note from the minutes, “As mentioned previously, all users have the right of representation on the committee. Please use it!” As I look around me now, sadly, these entreaties seem to have gone largely unheeded.

Despite the small size of our usual committee we made good progress over the years. In 2008 we had a leaking flat roof at the rear and while it was repaired included the installation of a lantern roof over the small hall. In 2010 we attained Hallmark 1 & Hallmark 2 (a County Council award for good governance). 2010 also saw the start of renovations to the glazing and stonework of the windows. The appeal for this revealed the generosity of Wedmore villagers and was so successful there was sufficient money over, after paying the stonemasons, to rehang, re-track and where necessary replace curtains. 2012 saw new blackouts for the windows behind the stage. 2012 was also the year we reassessed the committee’s participation in the street fair. The fair was started as a fund raiser for the Village Hall but it had become a burden for a small committee. We decided we no longer had the numbers to run it ourselves but as it had become part of the Wedmore calendar decided it should continue. We consulted with other village groups and now the fair is run by and profits shared with Harvest Home, The First School and Wedmore Green Group. 2013 was marked with an extremely generous bequest of £10,000 from Arthur Reynolds.

In 2014 we did repair work to rainwear with the replacement of some guttering and fascia boards – work that largely goes unnoticed but is so very essential. We also took delivery of new chairs and started preparatory work for the new lavatories. These were completed in 2015 in six weeks with very little disruption to user groups and well earned praise for the builders N.C Tucker.

This brings us to the current year. We have repaired damage to the walls in the entrance lobby, the decoration of which was duly completed by Jerry Blackwell. Just outside Gerald Hellier installed a hand rail for those of us who are no longer as agile as we once were. Thanks to the generosity of the Beer Festival - £2,360 of it - we are in the initial stages of selecting fire and gas alarm systems. A final decision has yet to be reached but this could include a fire door between the small and main hall - mainly because fireproof also means soundproof. I recently had a meeting with the architect Paul Martin with a view to enlarging the storage capacity attached to the snug and possibly providing an access from inside the hall.

The bookings secretary and treasurer have told you how well the hall is doing with increased regular bookings providing a steady and healthy income. I said at the beginning of my report that more hall users were needed on the committee and with the sound trading position we now enjoy this is most important. The hall is here for every villager and every village group but if you do not have representation on the committee you have no say in its future improvements or policy.

David Summers-Cooke

‘Limelight Night’ Open Mic at The George Wedmore – First Friday Each Month

Starting at 8.00pm, entry is free.

For the last eight months local band Compendium have been running the above open mic event at the ever popular George and a lot of local talent has been appearing.

Regular Acts have included:

- Tom Wilcox a talented local singer/guitarist playing popular covers.
- Ellie Rialas from Mark - a very talented singer songwriter and competent guitarist.
- Rob Tipping and Dave Farley, a harmony duo with a wide repertoire sometimes joined by Andy Mulliner on lead guitar, sometimes backed by the band too.
- Paul Dockerty, a gifted song writer and performer of folk music – his self-penned material and interesting guitar technique have impressed audiences and musicians alike.
- Winston Chubb, the ever popular songsmith from Cheddar – never fails to entertain with his humorous local story book of folk tales set to song.
- Rod Coombs a recent import from Manchester, playing and singing classic rock hits backed by the band.
- Marie Cook and Stewart Knight. playing their own blend of tasteful blues.

There have been several others from further afield.

Why not come along and join in the fun of music making and get in “The Limelight”. If you have sheet music our keyboardist Frances will happily provide accompaniment for you – no rehearsals just do it!!!

Michael Gillett

Kindred Band Set to Rock Wedmore on Saturday 17 December



Kindred is Wedmore's local band that has continued to go from strength to strength and has even been booked to play in places as far afield as Woolacombe in Devon as well other venues and private parties locally across Somerset.

It's great that Kindred will be playing the local George Inn, Wedmore, from 9.30pm on Saturday 17 December.

Why not come along and support your local band and see them in action. You're guaranteed to have a good time!

The band members are Scottie on guitar, Clive on drums, Helen on keyboards, Josh on bass and Fran and Jonathan on vocals. (If you want to book the band telephone Scottie 07769 672960)

Ian Scott

Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre Welcomes Graffiti Classics

Cheddar Arts is bringing brilliant comedy string quartet 'Graffiti Classics' to Cheddar's Kings Theatre on Friday 2 December.

The quartet's aim is to make classical music wickedly funny and fantastically exhilarating. This they achieve in a breath taking, all-singing, all-dancing musical comedy cabaret show that is not to be missed, as everyone from Wedmore who saw them earlier this year will know.

It's a classical concert, a gypsy-folk romp, an opera, a stand-up comedy set and a brilliant dance show all rolled into one!

Doors open at 6.45pm and the performance begins at 7.30pm, with a bar, refreshments and a bumper festive raffle all available.

Tickets are available online at www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts

For more details visit www.kowessex.co.uk/cheddarArts or for queries email cheddararts@googlemail.com

Jan Rance



Trevor Prideaux with the trophy

Conkers at The New Inn

This year's annual Conker competition at The New Inn, Wedmore, on Friday 21 October, drew 69 enthusiastic entries.

The competition was frantic, fierce and feisty, which saw entrants bashing the living daylight out of each other's conkers. The 'stamping' rule allowed entrants to 'stamp' on their opponent's conker if it fell on the floor, which led to many female entrants wrestling around on the floor looking for the conkers with some entrants being defeated by stamping on their own conker!

In joint third place were Philip Patch and Bob Burgess. Second place went to Lloyd Patch and the Winner was Trevor Prideaux who received the annual Conker trophy.

Trevor Prideaux

Somerset Wildlife Trust



Somerset Wildlife Trust is excited to announce the release of its latest Knit for Nature™ pattern, Boris the Barn Owl, part of a campaign to raise awareness of the decline of much-loved Somerset species and get communities inspired to pick up their knitting needles to raise much needed funds for wildlife conservation in the county. Boris follows on from the success of Rustle and Blue Bell Hedgehog patterns.



Somerset Wildlife Trust is dedicated to protecting vulnerable species such as hedgehogs and barn owls by creating richer and sustainable habitats for them across their reserves, but they need the public's help to ensure this important work continues. Action is needed now from people and communities where these wonderful animals choose to make their homes. So, whether you are a nifty knitter or knitting novice, there's a simple way that you can support their work and have fun at the same time!

You can get your hands on the wonderful new pattern and others from Somerset Wildlife Trust's website and all proceeds will go directly to the work they do to safeguard vulnerable species in the county. To download the pattern visit the website www.somersetwildlife.org/knit_for_nature

You can not only raise money by buying the pattern, but why not also raise funds through hosting a tea party or coffee morning to knit with friends and sell cakes or other crafts at the same time. Every penny raised makes a real difference.

Barn Owl numbers have declined by 70% in the UK since the 1930s due to the changes in land use and loss of available nest sites and reduction of the rough grassland areas that support their small mammal prey. We have also lost around 30% of our hedgehog population since 2002 due to the disappearance of our hedgerows and permanent pasture, increase in roads and traffic and the use of pesticides amongst other things.

Don't forget to share photos of your creations on social media: maybe your knitted Boris in some crazy colours, or perhaps you took Bluebell with you to a wild or exotic location? We want to know.

Share your photos and stories with us using #knitfornature on Twitter (@SomersetWT), Facebook, (@somersetwildlifetrust) Pinterest or email them to wildlifeneeds@somersetwildlife.org and we will feature them on our website.

If you'd like to send some barn owls or hedgehogs back to us, the address is Somerset Wildlife Trust, 34 Wellington Road, Taunton, TA1 5AW.

'Knit for Nature' is a registered trademark of Somerset Wildlife Trust

***Found:** Pair of ladies glasses at the side of Sunnyside Farm, Westham on the permissive path. Contact Phil Parkyn on 01934 713261*

Lisa Whaley
Somerset Wildlife Trust

Letters



Dear Editor

We are pleased to announce that the RNLI has produced 100 DVDs of the Penlee Tragedy re-enactment. These DVDs will be available from both The Swan Hotel and the Wedmore Village Store.

This will enable everyone who missed out on this re-enactment at our event back in May this year to witness the skill with which this was produced. We wish to record our grateful thanks to the production team. The DVD is free of charge, but of course, donations are always welcome.

*David Ewens
Volunteer RNLI*

Dear Editor

I refer to the lead story in the Autumn (Sedgemoor) edition of 'Your Somerset', headed 'Keeping the county moving'.

Have you or the county road unit any idea of the sheer anger which is out there because you close roads willy-nilly, all too often with no visible works actually going on?

We are told it is 'Health & Safety' and that all diversions must be on roads of equal status, but may I address these points?

Most years I drive several thousand miles on the continent, including France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Germany. Nowhere do I see the sheer chaos which is so prevalent in my own county of Somerset. Why is this? I'm not aware of vast numbers of road workers being killed or injured in any of the countries I've mentioned - but they do seem to give the convenience of their citizens a higher priority than do Somerset County Council, as they also do with the requirement for efficiently keeping the traffic flowing.

What adverse effect the numerous Somerset road closures must have on our tourist industry, especially with foreign tourists, I do not know, but suspect our fame will be taken home by them for all the wrong reasons. It also obviously impacts adversely on local businesses, who I suspect receive no reduction in their rates for the loss of customers who can't reach them.

Finally, if a road really must be entirely closed instead of repaired in two halves, would it not be possible to work 24 hours a day to re-open it as soon as possible, and to have two different diversion routes - one for light traffic on more convenient smaller local roads, with only the heaviest vehicles being diverted to roads of similar status?

Trevor Hunt

The above letter is a copy of the letter sent to 'Your Somerset'

Dear Editor

I appreciate that we are not talking about the Crown Jewels here, and that some of you may chuckle at the odd items that have gone astray, but three items have gone missing from my property over the last couple of months.

Firstly, a yard brush disappeared, then a beige, oblong casserole dish lifted itself off of an outside storage unit and, most recently, a yellow begonia pot plant has taken flight. This last item was intended for my late husband's grave.

If you have found any of these items at your property, please question the person that gave it to you, or if you are the perpetrator, please listen to your conscience - if you have such a thing.

Thank you.

Gill Adams.
Sand

A Day in the Life

Trevor Prideaux – Founder of The Turnip Prize

The Turnip Prize is a spoof of the Turner Prize. It was originally inspired by Tracey Emin's 1999 Turner Prize-shortlisted, 'My Bed' (her unmade bed contained empty alcohol bottles, cigarette butts and stained sheets). We questioned whether this is art and believed that the people of Somerset would be able to create better crap art. It started from there and 18 years later it is still here!



Anyone can enter; they just submit their piece to The New Inn in Wedmore to meet the closing date. The criteria are to use little or no effort, ensure the piece is a play on words, has a pseudonym and if it is topical, then even better! The coveted winner gets a turnip on a rusty nail (unfortunately we can't stretch to the £25,000 that the Turner Prize winner receives!).

So what does a day in the life of The Turnip Prize look like?

It's difficult to describe a day in the life of The Turnip Prize, but there are some key days: Entries open from 1 November each year, so there are lot of press releases I write to promote this. The closing date

Some early entries for this year's prize: 'Design Fault' by Ballonsey (above)

for all entries is 21 November and immediately after this preliminary judging takes place. The judges are myself, the winner from last year's Turnip Prize and usually a winner from previous years. As a result of this, five or six entries are chosen for the shortlist.



'Candle in the Wind' by Cockburn & Co

The most important day is the evening of the first Monday in December (this year it's 5 December) when The Turnip Prize winner is announced. This again is lots of organising, BBC and ITV News have covered it live in previous years and there are a number of radio interviews both before and after the winner is announced.

What have been some of the main issues you have been dealing with recently?

This year I have also written a book: *The Turnip Prize; A Retrospective*. It aims to answer the eternal question, 'we know it's crap... but is it art?' I have been joined by the total charlatan of an art critic, Royston Weeks OBE, FRSA, to create this book, which shows 40 previous entries and pontificating critical analysis of each piece!

To create this book, I entered into the world of publishing, which is completely new and alien! I was

approached by Royston in the winter of 2015 who suggested writing this book together. He already had an agent, Charley Viney of The Viney Agency in London. We met, laughed a lot, drank ale and signed up. It took a great deal of backward and forwards to create the drafts of the book. These were completed in the spring of this year and then Charley took the drafts to a variety of publishing companies. We signed up to the Octopus Publishing Group and then spent a few frantic weeks undertaking the legal aspects and finalising the write up of each entry. The book was released on 6 October and Royston and I will be signing these at The New Inn on 5 December from 6.30pm.

Can you recall any anecdotes to tell us?

There has been an eclectic mix of entries over the years, some from America, Russia, France, Italy and lots from Scotland. It's also always popular in the press, with coverage

including; Have I got News for You (two weeks running), The Apprentice, The Wright Stuff, Esther Rantzen, The Boston Globe, Readers Digest and the Metro and radio stations including Radio Spain, BBC World Service Russia and Forces Radio (alongside all the local and national coverage).

Strangely for press purposes there are always 69 entries and we encourage entries from the over 50s (The Turner Prize is restricted to those under 50). Our oldest winner was Jim Drew aged 102 with his entry 'Jammin with Muddy Waters'.

Other favourites include

Chilli n Minors – One large chilli and three small ones.

Manhole Cover – A pair of Y fronts.

Play on Words – A Shakespeare play on top of a dictionary.

Pissed and Broke – A broken piston.

Ewe Kip – A sleeping sheep.

What do you enjoy most about what you do?

The thing I enjoy most about The Turnip Prize is bringing some fun into the community and into the local or national news. Life at times has lots of challenges and it's great to be able to make others smile!

This year, I have also commissioned a blue plaque for all Turnip Prize winners, so look out for these around the area – they celebrate truly terrible art!

Is there anything you would change?

Order a bigger skip!!

*Trevor Prideaux
The Turnip Prize Founder*

Thank you Trevor for sharing a very entertaining 'Day in the Life of The Turnip Prize Founder' with Wedmore News

Wedmore News Would Like to Hear from You

Are you involved in running a local organisation in the Isle of Wedmore? Would you like to share some of the things that you do and raise awareness of your organisation by sharing your 'Day in the Life'? Please contact the editor Sue James, email editorwedmorenews@gmail.com, and share your day.

Sue James

Focus on Businesses

A Love of Outdoor Life Leads to Wedmore Gardens

Juliette Kouidri's story is really one of someone who has finally found her ideal job. Juliette was born in Chippenham, but grew up in Scotland, where the wonderful garden remains a vivid and fond childhood memory; it was a magical labyrinth, a

child's paradise. From here her love for the outdoors was subconsciously formed and developed in later life.



When she was about 12 years old her family returned to Wiltshire and, after finishing school, she studied catering and hotel management in Swindon. She started her career in hotels but then decided to take a sailing instructor's course in Poole. However, the chef at the sailing school left and Juliette replaced him (or her?). She didn't get a chance to complete the course, but she did do a lot of sailing in her spare time! It was whilst working in Bath that Juliette met her future husband, Hamid. He had been sent by the Algerian Air Force to study as an Officer Cadet with the Royal Air Force in Bath and Locking. After graduating he went back

to Algeria but soon returned to England to marry Juliette. They lived in Bristol, before moving to Wedmore, where Hamid completed his master's degree at Exeter University. Following this he taught Arabic at Millfield School.

Juliette has explored a range of career paths from catering to sailing, marketing and administration, alongside juggling family life and raising four children, yet has found herself back where she is most inspired, with nature. As the children got older Juliette looked for part-time employment. She first thought about an administrative post as this would fit in with her time-table, but a conversation with a fellow gardener at their allotment led her down a different path. He suggested that she became self-employed and so Juliette began to do odd jobs in various gardens, which developed into a full-time gardening business. About three years ago she formed The Potting Shed with a friend; however with increasing demand, there was enough work to split into two full-time businesses, with Hamid helping out with the heavy-duty labour, such as hedge trimming and pruning. Last year Juliette's business became Wedmore Gardens. Juliette describes it as 'the best job

in the world'; she likes being her own boss and the work is very varied. Gardeners have to cope with the elements and every garden is completely different, so one never stops learning. Both she and Hamid said that what gives them enormous satisfaction is seeing the end result, particularly when they have completely transformed an overgrown garden.

Liz Sweeney

Do You Run a Business in the Parish?

Then how about telling our readers more about yourself? Who are you? What is your business? Are you from the Wedmore area? If not, where did you come from? What motivated you to start, take over or carry on the business? If you would like to share your story, send an email to editorwedmorenews@gmail.com or photoswedmorenews@gmail.com and I will contact you for a short interview.

Liz Sweeney

Reports and Society Updates

St Mary's Church 100 Club

The winners of 1st prize in the November Draw were Jean and Alan Windridge, holding No. 14, and the 2nd prize went to Sue Record with her No. 78. Congratulations!

Thelma Jenkins-Jones

Wedmore WI Report for October

October is our birthday month, so we had a party with guests – visitors from Draycott and Westbury sub Mendip joined us for a special evening with pearls and supper.

The pearls were supplied by Frances Benton, who has for many years bought pearls from China, strung them, and then sold them to raise funds for the charity Jabulani, which cares for street children in Durban, S. Africa. So far she has raised £36,000 and she hopes to reach £50,000 before she retires. The charity supports children who have no-one to care for them, enabling them to go to school and college and getting them off the streets. The pearls were many and various and Frances passed round strings of simulated pearls, which are manmade of glass with a pearlised varnish, and real pearls, explaining the difference between natural pearls which occur in one oyster in 2,000,000, and cultured pearls, which are farmed, and though they can take up to 20 years to grow, are much more numerous. She told us how to distinguish between real and simulated pearls – real ones take up the warmth of the body when worn, make a low stony rattle when shaken, feel heavy to handle, and have rainbows dancing on the surface when held to the light. Other clues as to whether your string of pearls are simulated can be that there is wear to the varnish near the clasp, and also to the



“waist” of the biggest pearl in the centre of the string. The quality of the clasp and whether each pearl is knotted individually are also clues. More extreme tests made us laugh – if you rub a real pearl gently on your teeth (must be your own teeth!), it will feel gritty, and if you hold up the string above a lighted flame, real pearls will not burn, whereas the owner of a string of simulated pearls will quickly stop you, as the varnish will catch fire, giving the game away. Pearls come in a surprising variety of colours, from deep blues and black, gold, apricot, white, cream, green and rarest of all, rose pink. We were able to buy items ranging from earrings to necklaces, and enjoyed trying the different colours against our skin to see what suited us.

After a vote of thanks from Diana, the supper was served, an excellent ploughman`s with local ham and cheese, prepared by Val with help from Sue and Iris, with cider punch supplied by Margaret T, followed by meringues made by Mary. Anyone who had forgotten it was the party night, and had already eaten, regretted it! All round, a very entertaining evening. December`s meeting looks to be as good; we have Dr Barry Rose, one time organist and choirmaster of St Paul`s Cathedral and then St Albans Abbey, coming to talk about music “From Mozart to McCartney”. Come and find out what goes on at the WI, you will be made very welcome. The next meeting is on Thursday 15 December at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall.

Chair Yoga

Jo Willis, a fully qualified yoga teacher and chair yoga therapist, is starting a class in Wedmore. This is a fun class, ideal for over 50s, to stretch, flex and relax. It will strengthen muscles, improve balance, stamina and flexibility. All the exercises can be practised whilst sitting in a chair, if preferred some can be done standing. No previous experience is needed. The classes are on Tuesday mornings, from 10.00 - 11.00am in the Function Room at The Swan Inn. The cost is £5.00 per class, pay as you go. Jo has existing classes in Axbridge, Draycott and Wells, and teaches for Somerset County Council and Age UK. Come and give it a try!

For more information, contact Jo Willis, telephone 0755 271 1101

Chris Barker

Isle of Wedmore Society Report for October

The Society was delighted to welcome back both Kate and Lester Durston to give us another talk this time entitled ‘An Indian Kaleidoscope’.

This, as the title suggests was the result of a mixture of visits to the most overwhelming and chaotic place on earth. We were given an overview of the largest democracy in the world, this world that either inspires or depresses!

Although India is 3 million square kilometres, it is only half the size of Russia but with a population of about 1.2 billion people, 20% of whom live in cities and the rest in rural areas with half of the population living in absolute poverty.

This country with its multitude of religions was taken over by the British in 1700 until Independence in 1947. The British did leave behind the English language, democracy and a railway system which still exists until this day.

The country is famous for its gardens, forts, palaces, temples and towers and this was amply depicted in the wonderful slides which Kate and Lester took on their travels. The colourful talk and pictures of India finished with the most iconic of images The Taj Mahal.

We hope these two intrepid travellers will come back again when they have visited another exotic part of the world.

*Chris Edwards.
Speaker Secretary*

Wedmore in Bloom

A belated thank you to everyone who came to our 'Apple Day' held at the Scout Hut on October 22nd. We had very good feedback and we had a beautiful Autumn Day to celebrate the apple harvest.

Thanks to the committee, stall holders, cider makers, demonstrations and apple pressers, also to the Scouts and Guides who all played their parts organising tents, games and toffee apples. Thank you also to Adrian Hutchison for two demonstrations of apple tree pruning. Also to Alan and Heather Hector for the excellent barbeque and Bernard and Liz Coulter – Bernard for his lively music and Liz for the children's' games.

We have greeting cards of the Map of Wedmore for sale. These are suitable for any occasion and are a small version of the new map of the village which is at the entrance to The Mall. Price £1.50 each, contact Brenda Squires on 01934 710494 if you'd like some.

We'll have a break from Work Parties this month but join us for a coffee and mince pies in the Dining Room at 11.00am Saturday 10 December. We will resume the second Saturday in January.

Our AGM and supper will be held on Friday 13 January. For more details please contact Andrea West, telephone 712161.

Andrea West

Wedmore Harvest Home 100 Club Lottery 2017

We are going to be running our successful 100 Club Lottery again next year.

This is a great opportunity to help raise funds for Wedmore Harvest Home and win money at the same time! £30.00 per ticket (£2.50 per month)

1st Prize - £100.00, 2nd Prize - £50.00

To enter please contact Kerry Willcox, telephone 07881740576

Your number will go into every draw, so you could win 24 times!

Monthly draws will take place at the Wedmore HH committee meetings.

First draw will take place at our AGM in January 2017.

You are able to choose your OWN numbers, so be quick to not miss out on your lucky number!

Beth Skeen

Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club

Our annual Christmas Party will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 6 December at the Masonic Hall. Members and guests welcome.

A cooked supper is provided as well as entertainment.

Contact Andrea West, telephone 712161



Andrea West

Mendip Rotary Young Artist



Kezia Beale's winning photo

At a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Mendip, prizes were awarded to students from the Kings of Wessex Academy who had entered the Rotary Young Artists competition organised by Rotarian Richard Acreman. He warmly welcomed the competitors and parents and thanked the art department staff at the school. He also thanked the judging panel which included local artist Peter Keen, Doug Johnson and Barbara Millard.

Vouchers were presented to the first, second and third places in each category, and the overall winner's shield was presented to Kezia Beale, who had submitted entries in more than one category. In presenting the prizes and certificates, club president Phil Hunt said, 'These young people are to be congratulated on a very high standard of work.'



Young Artist prize winners

The prize-winners in each category were

Art drawing and painting with a local or Somerset theme

1st Eva Delap; 2nd Maddie Weir; 3rd Tia Roberts.

Photography with a local or Somerset theme

1st Kezia Beale; 2nd Ollie Brimfield; 3rd Molly Abbiss.

Textiles on the theme 'Sew Vintage'

1st Poppy Min-Landers; 2nd Victoria Alexander; 3rd Lily Hewett.

Still life painting

1st Emma Winby; 2nd Katrina Thorpe; 3rd Eloise Grandfield.

John Manders

IT for the Terrified

IT for the Terrified – for all your computer training needs. A skill-sharing, informal community project. Run by a Committee, staffed by Volunteers.

IT for the Terrified is now using Cheddar Village Hall for our computer training sessions, with an ethos of friendly, informal, relaxed and individual help to use your computer, tablet or smartphone. If you need the use of one of our machines, please let us know as this can be arranged.

Anyone of any age or ability can learn how to order prescriptions or library books, do your shopping, share photos, email or chat to friends and family online, etc.



Our opening hours will be flexible, because we have different trainers with different skills on different levels on different days, and need to work round when the hall is available, but we will arrange an appointment to suit both parties as quickly as we can. Appointments are essential and cost £20 per two-hour for a 1:1 or £30 per two-hour for 1:2 sessions.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our customers past, present and future a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful, Happy and 'techi' New Year.

Contact us at IT for the Terrified, telephone 741751, visit the website www.itfortheterrified.co.uk, or email itfortheterrified@btconnect.com.

Using Cheddar Village Hall, Church Street, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3RF Cheddar Village Hall (used to be Cheddar Church House) is next to St. Andrew's Church and almost opposite the road to Sainsbury's.

If you can spare two hours a week and have skills on any level (especially basics) that you would like to share with others, please get in touch.

Registered Charity No. 1130308: Company No. 06779600

Cheddar Valley University of the Third Age (U3A)

Recently we had an inspirational talk by Ian Williamson describing the trekking and charity work that he has undertaken in Nepal to raise funds for St Margaret's Hospice, all since his retirement.



The Monthly talks are one of the 50 or more activity groups available to the 'Active Retired' or 'Third Agers' who make up the membership of Cheddar Valley U3A.

This month on 1 December we have our Christmas entertainment at Cheddar Village Hall starting at 2.15pm. Tickets £2.00, please telephone 710242

So how did it all start? The idea of providing a framework for those of us who are retired to be able to come together for study, recreation and friendship originated in France in 1972 with links to their Universities. In 1981 the ideas were taken up in the UK, however the emphasis was to be one of self-help and learning from each other within each U3A. The Third Age Trust was set up to provide this overall framework for the UK, and offers many services such as advice and insurance etc.

So how has the movement developed in the last 35 years? In November there will be 1000 individual U3As in the UK, each with average membership of 300. In our local area there are U3As in Cheddar, Winscombe, Highbridge, Burnham, Wells and Weston. The activity groups in each U3A directly reflect the interests of its members, so they are all slightly different.

Our personal circumstances can sometimes change in ways that we can't always predict, but the need for companionship and friendship is always there. So if it's walking in the hills, playing scrabble or a study into history etc., out of the many group activities offered by each U3A there will usually be some like-minded people for you to join. If you have a particular interest or passion come and share it with others.

To find out more about Cheddar Valley U3A come along to Cheddar Library any Monday morning between 10.30am - 12.00 noon, or our Coffee Morning on Thursday

15 December in Cheddar Village Hall. For more information please telephone 744241 or search online for Cheddar U3A for our latest newsletter.

Geoff Farnie

Cheddar Lions

Cheddar Vale Lions Club wish you all a very Merry Christmas and invite you to the dedication service for this year's Tree of Light on Thursday 1 December at 6.30pm at the Bath Arms, Cheddar; when the lights will be switched on.



The club are holding their Christmas Raffle again this year and all profits will go to their Centennial Defibrillator Appeal and their work in the community. If you see us out selling tickets please give generously!

Janet Clark (Lion President and P.R.)

Walk Programme – West Mendip Walkers

Thursday 1 December

Moderate circular walk 9.7mi / 15.5kms from Corfe. OS Map Ex128 ST233197 Start 10.00 am from church. Park on roadside near church. Contact Tony Strange, telephone 733783 / 07976 902706, email anthonyestranger@gmail.com



Thursday 8 December

Easy circular walk 6.5mi/10.4kms from Shapwick. OS Map Ex141 ST417398. Start 12.30pm from church. Park in Nature Reserve car park. Contact Ken Masters, telephone 01749 670349 / 07784 941439, email k.masters265@gmail.com

Thursday 15 December

Moderate circular walk 10mi/16kms from Rackley. OS Map EX153 ST393551. Start 10.30am. Park at Webbington Road car park. Contact Vi Howley, telephone 07711 662993, email vihowley@btinternet.com

Thursday 22 December

Moderate circular walk 6.4mi/10.3kms from Butcombe. OS Map Ex154 ST515619. Roadside parking near church. Contact Tony Strange, telephone 733783 / 07976 902706, email anthonyestranger@gmail.com

Thursday 29 December

Moderate circular walk 5.5mi/8.8kms from Shipham Village Hall. OS Map Ex141 ST443578. Park at village hall. Contact Roger Mead, telephone 743088, email rogermead1941@hotmail.co.uk

Tony Strange

The Polden Way and its Reserves

Wednesday 7 December 7.30 - 9.00pm

Tim Youngs, Somerset Wildlife Trust's Director of Land Management will talk about the Polden Way and its Reserves. The Polden Way runs from Walcot Hill to Hurcot Hill through many nature reserves. Tim will look at the natural history to be found along the way, including the Large Blue Butterflies of Collard Hill. Shapwick Village Hall, Station Road, Shapwick, TA7 9NJ. ST418384. For more information please contact Anne Lees on email leesmark@supanet.com. Adults £2.50, under 16s free.

Lisa Whaley

Somerset Wildlife Trust December Events



Christmas Craft Wildlife Watch Event

Saturday 3 December 10.30am - 1.00pm.



Robin (credit Valerie Godsmark)

Join the fun making natural Christmas crafts: wreaths, hazel Santas or elves, miniature Christmas trees and more. Help decorate one of the Brewhouse's 'Around the World' Christmas trees. The Brewhouse, Coal Orchard, Taunton TA1 1JL. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information and to book your place please contact the Brewhouse on 01823 283244 or visit www.thebrewhouse.net. Free event. Donations Welcome

Otters

Tuesday 6 December 7.30 - 9.15pm

Talk about Otters by Dr Rob Williams, Chair of the Somerset Otter Group. Caryford Hall, Ansford, Castle Cary BA7 7JJ, ST643330. For more information

please contact Caroline Rathbone, email carolinerathbone@btinternet.com. Adults £2.50, children free.



Otter (credit Amy Lewis)

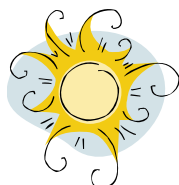
Weather Report for October 2016

RAINFALL



Monthly total	32.8mm	(1.29ins)
30-year average	91.5mm	(3.6ins)
Wettest day (24th)	12.8mm	(0.50ins)
No of dry days	23	
Last 3 months (Aug- Oct)	159mm	(6.28ins)
Year ending 31 Oct 2016	682mm	(26.84ins)
30-year annual average	797mm	(31.4ins)

TEMPERATURES



Maximum (4th)	18.0 °C	(64.4 °F)
Minimum (22nd)	0 °C	(32 °F)
Number of air frosts	1	
Monthly average maximum	14.3 °C	(57.7 °F)
30-year average maximum	15 °C	(59 °F)
Monthly average minimum	6.3 °C	(43.3 °F)
30-year average minimum	7.5 °C	(45.5 °F)

COMMENTS

Whilst October is usually the wettest month of the year, this year's total was barely one third of the long term average. This makes it the driest October since 1978 when 6.2mm was recorded.

Denley Brown

Forthcoming Events

'Limelight Night' Open Mic – Friday 2 December

At The George, Wedmore, starting at 8.00pm, entry free.

Why not come along and join in the fun of music making and get in 'The Limelight'. If you have sheet music our keyboardist Frances will happily provide accompaniment for you – no rehearsals just do it!



Mr Punch's Folk Club – Friday 2 and 16 December Open Mic sessions

At The Panborough Inn, starting at 8.00pm, entrance £1.

On Friday 16 December, Christmas Open Mic - Compulsory Jollity

For more information telephone 712144.

St Mary's Christmas Fayre, Annual Box Opening for the Children's Society and Fairtrade Coffee Morning – Saturday 3 December

St Mary's once again invites you all to the annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 3 December between 9.30am - 12.00noon. There will be all the usual stalls, singing from pupils of Wedmore First School Academy and the Coffee Shop will be open throughout. The Annual Box Opening for the Children's Society will take place starting at 10.00am.

The Turnip Prize Final Judging – Monday 5 December

Final judging takes place at The New Inn on Monday 5 December at 6.30pm. For more information visit The New Inn, Wedmore, or our facebook page.



Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club Christmas Party – Tuesday 6 December

Our annual Christmas Party will be held at 7pm at the Masonic Hall. Members and guests welcome. A cooked supper and entertainment will be available.

Contact Andrea West, telephone 712161

Wedmore Methodist Church Carols and Candlelight Concert – Wednesday 7 December

The Annual Carols and Candlelight Concert in aid of Charlton Farm, Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) will take place at Wedmore Methodist Church at 7.00 pm. There is no charge for entry but there will be a collection at the end of the concert and ALL donations will go directly to the Children's Hospice.

Tea / coffee and mince pies will be served in the schoolroom at the conclusion of the concert, for which there is a nominal charge.

Christmas stalls selling CHSW cards, calendars, diaries, pens and Christmas decorations and a gift stall will be available after the concert.

Memory Stars will also be available at £1 for you to write your personal message on and to hang on the memory tree in the Church to be remembered in our prayers.

Memory Stars are a simple and beautiful way to remember someone special to you at Christmas and also raise funds to support families at Children's Hospice South West.

Please come and support the Children's Hospice which makes the most of 'short and precious lives'.

Further details telephone Gwen Fisher, 712629 or Angeline Duckett, 712631.



Christmas Concert by the Burnham and Highbridge Brass Band – Saturday 10 December

The Burnham and Highbridge Brass Band will be performing a Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church on Saturday 10 December. In addition to festive music the programme will include contemporary and traditional pieces. Doors open at 7.00pm and the concert commences at 7.45pm. Tickets are available from the church, or telephone 710475, or visit the website. www.burnhamandhighbridgeband

Blackford Village Hall Café – Wednesday 14 December

Please join us for a Christmas celebration at Blackford Village Hall from 2.00 - 4.00pm for mince pies, cake, tea or mulled wine and some Christmas music.

All are welcome to share tidings of friendship at this time of year.

For more information please contact Margaret Tinney, telephone 712324.

Wedmore by Lamplight – Wednesday 14 December

Starting with the St. Mary's Church crib service at 6.00pm together with the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree. Wedmore shops will be open for the evening from 6.00-9.00pm and the centre of Wedmore will offer pig roasts and mulled wine whilst Burtle Band play traditional carols to get us all full of festive spirit. Father Christmas will be in attendance, he will be bringing his reindeer!

For more information on the evening please contact Joseph, at 2J's Travel, telephone 713714, or email joseph@2jstravel.com



Wedmore WI Meeting – Thursday 15 December

At 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. Our speaker this month is Dr Barry Rose, local musician and previously choirmaster and organist at St Paul's Cathedral and St Alban's Abbey. One of his choristers was soloist in the theme music for the BBC production of Smiley's People and he has a wealth of experience which we will hear about in his talk 'From Mozart to McCartney'. Come and listen, Wedmore WI welcomes visitors, and will be pleased to see you.

For further information please contact Chris Barker

2 Dunns Close Wedmore BS28 4BL, telephone 712182, email chris@cjbarker.plus.com

Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 21 December

The meeting of the Parish Council will be held on at 7.30pm at the Council Rooms Grants Lane. Parishioners are welcome to attend.



Theale Film Club – Sunday 18 December

The film is 'Jungle Book' at Theale Village Hall. Doors open at 6.30 for 7.00pm. For more information please contact Lesley Luke on 713176, lesleyluke@live.co.uk, Bernard Coulter on 712144, bcoulter@talktalk.net,

Theale Film Club Quiz Night – Saturday 14 January

At 8.00pm in Theale Village Hall.

Test your knowledge of film and powers of observation with film and music extracts on screen. Teams of six with tickets costing £7.50 per person to include light supper. There will also be a raffle. For more information and tickets please telephone 712144.

Events Taking Place Outside the Parish

Toddler Story Time at Cheddar Library – Friday 2 December

'Christmas Time'. From 2.30 - 3.00pm. It is free and there is no need to book, just come along.



Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre welcomes Graffiti Classics – Friday 2 December

Cheddar Arts is bringing brilliant comedy string quartet 'Graffiti Classics' to Cheddar's Kings. Doors open at 6.45pm and the performance begins at 7.30pm, with a bar, refreshments and a bumper festive raffle all available.

Tickets are available online at www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts

Allerton Players – Friday 9 and Saturday 10 December At Weare Memorial Hall.

‘Wake Up To Christmas’ will be full of fun and frolics. Who could ask for more in the run-up to Christmas? Doors open at 7.00pm, show starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £9 are available from Carol Kilburn, telephone 713158 or Margaret Tinney, telephone 712324

Somerset Singers Christmas Concert – Saturday 10 December

The Somerset Singers Christmas Concert will be the ‘Requiem Mass’ by Amadeus Mozart and the ‘Paukenmesse (Mass in Time of War)’ by Franz Joseph Haydn at St Cuthbert’s Church in Wells at 7.30pm. The Somerset Singers will be conducted by their Musical Director Jonathan Vaughan with the Lochrian Ensemble (Leader Catherine Black) and Soloists Mary Walker (Soprano), Daniel Brown (Alto), Richard Rowntree (Tenor), Craig Bissex (Bass). Tickets priced £12 will be available in advance from Wells Tourist Information Centre, telephone 843727.



Tickets priced £14 will be available on the door. Further information available from the website www.somersetsingers.co.uk

Tasty Morsels – Recipes for You



Mulled Wine

This is great for using up leftover red wine. You don’t have to be exact with quantities and can substitute ingredients depending on what you have, but whole spices ensure you don’t get a grainy result.

Ingredients

4½ oz water
9 oz sugar
6 cloves
1 cinnamon stick
3 bay leaves
1 star anise
½ tsp cardamom seeds
3 kaffir lime leaves (or zest of a lime)

Method

Boil all the ingredients together for 3 to 4 minutes. Filter through a coffee filter (or a layer of kitchen towel in a funnel or sieve) while still hot and store in a glass

bottle or jam jar. This recipe should yield about 12 oz syrup which will keep for months.

Use 3 oz syrup for half a bottle of red wine mixed with 7 oz of orange juice (those little 200ml packs with the straw on the side are just the right size).

Heat on the hob or in the microwave until nearly boiling, or do as we do and sit a pan on the wood burner.

Stuart Fisher

The Garden in December

Well, here we are in real autumn. The clocks have gone back and the trees have really coloured up well and I am writing about gardening in December. Here in Theale, we have had no frost as yet, in fact it has been very mild, but a significant drop in temperature is forecast for next week with night temperatures down to 0°C.



That will be low enough to do significant damage to half-hardy plants such as dahlias, gladioli, begonias and any other similarly tender species that may be on the patio or in containers elsewhere. If you have somewhere protected to put them, such as a cold greenhouse, then do so. If not, then cover them with fleece or similar protection. However, by the time you are reading this, this cold snap may be history; in recent years we have tended to have a few frosts in November, followed by a return to mild, damp weather, so we shall see. As I said last month, mild, damp conditions in winter can be ideal for the spread of grey-mould fungus (botrytis) which attacks a wide range of plants, particularly when there is little air movement, so under glass, open ventilators and/or have a fan to circulate the air. Winter bedding plants, such as pansies and primulas can also suffer from this mould, so beware. There used to be various fungicides available to amateur gardeners to counteract this problem, but most of them are no longer available so you will just have to be vigilant and pick off any affected foliage that you see.

If you grow winter vegetables, such as lettuce, under glass or polythene, they can be affected by the same problem: getting the foliage too wet when watering can make it worse, so try using 'leaky hose' for example, rather than overhead watering.

I was speaking to someone yesterday who said that, so far, the birds have not been stripping berries from pyracanthas, cotoneasters etc. No doubt they will when the weather gets colder; they always take the red berries first, because birds can see better at the red end of the spectrum (incidentally, that is why slug pellets are blue, so that birds don't see them on the ground and eat them and flowers pollinated by birds in the wild e.g. hummingbirds, tend to be red). This is not irrelevant as it leads me on to preserving holly berries for Christmas; if you wish to do this on a tree in your garden, putting a polythene bag over them, tied loosely can keep our feathered friends off.

I recently (at the time of writing) got involved in demonstrating the pruning of apple trees; I emphasised then that it was too early, but now, when the leaves have all come off you can prune apples and pears up until the buds begin to burst again at about the end of February. Do not however, prune plum or cherry trees in the winter, as this lays them open to infection by the silver-leaf disease, which is at best debilitating and at worst, lethal.

On the lawn, now is a good time to deal with moss, either chemically or simply by raking, a good job on a cold day, but remember that moss in a lawn is often a symptom of shade, poor drainage or acidity and the cause needs to be addressed otherwise it will simply return next year. Frequently, scalped patches appear at the edge of the lawn where the mower wheels have dropped off the edge, or herbaceous plants have flopped on to it. Use the lawn edger to cut out a piece of turf and turn it around, so that the grassy part is moved to the edge, the bald bit will then be filled in by encroachment of grass from the surrounding area. If you frequently have problems with border plants lying on the lawn, consider a 'mowing strip' of slabs along the edge of the grass, sunk in to turf level so that the mower passes over them. I have often considered putting a 'swath board' on the mower so that it pushes such plants to one side (the border) instead of running over them. Come on mower manufacturers, take the hint!

If you like to have some scent in the garden in winter, consider growing 'sarcococca confusa', sometimes known as Christmas Box; it is evergreen and has small creamy, honey-scented flowers. It grows to about a metre high and wide and usually flowers early in the New Year.

Talking of Christmas Boxes, it is now time to drop hints about gardening books or other related items that you would like to find in your Christmas stocking. Also, get together a selection of seed and other gardening catalogues, so that you have an excuse to sit in the arm-chair and browse through them during the short days of mid-winter (with a warming drink of something to help).

I will end by wishing you all the Compliments of the Season.

Adrian Hutchison

Thought for the Month

Dear Friends,

Will you come across an angel today? Not the versions that we see on our Christmas cards and in stained glass windows – those winged and otherworldly communicators of beauty and truth - but a real live angel.

What the word angel means is simply 'messenger', 'angelos' or, in the Greek, *αγγελος*. And how the role of angels in the bible is often depicted is to be those who carry God's message to mortals. In particular they are those who carry his 'good news' or 'gospel' (the word we translate as gospel just means good news '*ευαγγελος*', *eu-angelos*, and is linked to the word evangelist or evangelism).



So I wonder if there is someone who will be a bearer of good news, an angel, to you today. When we are bombarded through the media with so much bad news, those announcements of good news are very precious.

In the events surrounding Jesus' birth, angels make many appearances. An angel appears to Mary and to Joseph separately to tell them about Jesus. There are the angels who sing to the shepherds. We read about how the wise men and Joseph are all warned by angels about Herod's intentions. And the reason for such a sudden explosion of angelic appearances is that Jesus' birth is above all 'good news', God's guarantee of his love and care for humanity. As one man who is likely himself to have known Jesus, the evangelist John, wrote, 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that all who believed in him would not perish but would have everlasting life.'

Through this time of Advent as the sun continues to decline and the days become ever darker I hope that you will be touched by an angel, I hope that you will hear good news, I hope that you will be a bearer of good news to someone else, I hope that you will hear afresh the message of the angels 'I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.' I hope...

Lisa, Iona, Melissa and I thank you for all your good wishes and prayer over the past year. May you meet an angel today.

Richard Neill

Sport Reports

Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

This first Saturday of October was Finals Day at Wedmore G.C, the culmination of the summer knock-out competitions. The Men's Singles for the Hathaway Trophy is played over 36 holes and therefore needed an early start. Jon Thompson took on Richard Ham and it was Ham who had by far the better of the morning round taking a seven-hole lead although play had been much closer. Thompson fought back in the afternoon, reducing the lead to four holes but this was as close as it got with Ham running out winner 6 and 5.

The only other final avoiding the afternoon rain was the Bronze Division Macarthur trophy between Jenny Thomas and Mary-Lou Denny. Thomas had reached two finals, hence the need to play early, but her first final proved disappointing with Denny's longer hitting proving decisive as she ran out a 5 and 4 winner. In the afternoon Thomas was in the Mixed Greensomes in partnership with Darren Cornish against Ann Adams and Tom Smith. Things did not start too well again and Adams and Smith held a two-shot lead at the turn. However, on the back nine the match was turned on its head as Thomas and Cornish fought back to clinch the match 3 and 1.

In the Macarthur Silver Cathy Olive found giving six shots to an in-form Shirley Turner too much to cope with and Turner won comfortably 5 and 4. It was the same story in the Pinks Plate with Heather Abraham holding the edge against Helen Tanswell to



also win by 5 and 4. The Crandon Cup Greensomes between Sue Tarry and Wendy Lucas and Sue Spink and Val Webber looked as if it might be closer but on the back nine Lucas and Tarry pulled away to win 5 and 4.



Shirley Turner with caddie Jane Midgley and Cathy Olive and her caddie Carol Lewis sheltering under Mike Garbutt's umbrella before the Ladies Singles final

The Seniors only had one final to play but it proved the tightest of the day with Ian Sentance taking on Seniors' Captain Mike Tanswell and eventually prevailing in a hard fought match by 3 and 1. Tightest final had been the previous week when it took Jim and Sean Gray three extra holes to overcome Liam Cann and Dale Worthington in the Men's Pairs. The last of the finals was finally played later in the month with Mike Munns and Tony Hoskings just getting the better of John Vowles and James Robertson in a hard fought match by 2 and 1.

In a month of finals the final Open Competition of the year also took place in October. This was the Yonex Trophy with 104 competitors including a good sprinkling of visitors enjoying mainly sunny weather. Andy Ratcliffe was in sparkling form, his 44 points taking him 5 ahead of everyone else despite a double bogey on the last to take the overall trophy. In division 1 Ben Barwell led the way with 39 points, chased hard by John Russell whose round included three 2s and Simon Moore who lost out for runner-up on countback. There was a welcome return to form in division 2 from

Mike Munns , winning with 39 points , one better than David Coggan, in turn a shot better than Mike Scantlebury.



*Val Webber, Sue Spink, Wendy Lucas and Sue Tarry
with referee Alison Dodkin before the Ladies Pairs final*

The Ladies were also competing with Dawn Chadwick in excellent form to win the overall Ladies Trophy with 37 points. This put her 5 points clear of Sue Tarry, winner of division 2 ahead of Claire Biggs. Division 1 was closely fought with Shirley Gooding edging out Cathy Olive by a single point,

The Ladies played one of their own major competitions during the month. They were playing for the Olive Bowl, a Stableford with some sensational scoring, particularly from Karen Barnett with a handicap crunching 44 points. This put her 4 points clear of Val Webber, four points back despite scoring an excellent 40 points. Mary-Lou Denny took third place on countback from Gina Falcon and Ruth Pearson after all three scored 39.

The final Saturday was an opportunity for players to take on their Captain and Professional in a Texas Scramble but with Captain Toni Ribí suffering heart problems during the week it seemed unlikely he could partner Nick Pope, himself having had a stent fitted only a few weeks previously. Play they did though and their 44 points was far from the worst score of the day. This format always produces good scores and best this time was a staggering 55 points from Terry Mogg and Val Webber. They were closely chased by Jim Gray with daughter Steph on 54 points with Ian and Janet Robson just a further point back in third place.

The Club Stableford was a family affair as son and father-in-law Kevin Osman and Keith Thomas both scored 43 points to win divisions 2 and 3 respectively. It was a close call for Thomas though as he was chased home by Greg Speller who was just one shot behind and Ben Gillibrand who scored 40. It was more comfortable for Osman as he finished 6 points clear of Dave Skelton, runner up with 37 points, with Marcello di Mascio third on 35.

There was a very close finish in division 1 with Geoff Fisher winning on countback from Stuart Bishop with both players scoring 39. Bishop must have been cursing failing to score on either the fifteenth or sixteenth holes in an otherwise outstanding round. Bill Lander took third with 36 points. Best scores amongst the Ladies came from Janis Lawrence with 35 points and Colette Sweeting on 34. It was a good day for the Sweetings as Mark and Steve had scored 40 and 39 points to come fourth and fifth in division 3.

In the monthly Medal Chris Norris had the best round of the day, a nett 66 to win division 1 from David Myers and Tim Harris. Marcello di Mascio won division 2 on 67 from Jon Thompson and Ian Robson whilst a 67 was enough to win division 3 for Chris McKinley with Pete Beavan second and Daniel Milford third.

Tony Biggs

Wedmore Tennis Club

This month has been marked by competitions with the annual club mixed doubles taking place at the beginning of the month, the commencement of Winter League matches and, towards the end of the month, the postponed Finals Day.



Mixed Final

David and Sandra Evans organised a very enjoyable mixed doubles event with entrants, divided into two boxes, playing round robin matches. Following an indulgent refreshment break, the one set play offs took place with Jenny Fitzpatrick and Sam Mullick in the final against Sarah Cunningham and Henry Neville. Thanks to Henry's court coverage and 'soft hands', the title went to Henry and Sarah this year. All finalists



Men's Singles Fina



Girls' Singles Final

Finals Day was again, thankfully, fine and bright. At 11 am the men's singles competitors, Matt Drew and Ben Wylie, arrived to contest a repeat of last year's final. The match was a high quality duel in the sun, with Matt taking the first set thanks to a series of explosive serves and deft touches in the forecourt. The second set was an extremely tight contest with Ben hitting a series of magnificent backhand passes to thwart the forward rushing Matt. The set ended with a tie break in which Matt's greater consistency prevailed. Congratulations to Matt.



Boys' Singles Final



Ladies' Doubles Final

The men's singles was followed by the junior singles. In the girls' event Charli Beeson and Amelia Corr produced some excellent rallies and some superb shots before Charli won in straight sets

The boys singles was the closest contest of the day with Daniel Dor edging the first set on a tie break, Jack Brimm fighting back to take the second set and leading in the deciding tie break, only for Daniel to finally triumph. Congratulations to both on the high standard of play attained.

Matt Drew returned to the court with Val Parker to play Rob Sweet and Charlotte Wright in the mixed doubles. Despite some asides regarding his determination to win

after one of his turbo serves hit Charlotte in the stomach, Matt couldn't be distracted and he and Val won the title in straight sets.

In the last match of the day, the ladies doubles, Val and Charlotte played together to defeat Alison Campion and Sarah Tipping in another entertaining match filled with great shots.

Thanks to Sandra Evans for all her hard work in organising the food and drink, to David Evans for managing the bar, Dick Campion and Bill Litherland for running the BBQ, Clive Ross and John Gould for umpiring, Dae for photography and everyone else who contributed their time to make the day the success it was.

Sarah Cunningham

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

Indoor bowling is now underway at Wedmore with members bowling in 12 different club leagues every week. Coaching also takes place weekly for new bowlers. Friendly matches against other clubs are played most weekends. In the first of these, Wedmore men played in an annual fixture against Somerset County under 25s squad. This proved to be an evenly matched game across the two rinks. Wedmore made a good start on Ron Barron's rink being 6 shots up after 12 ends. Keith Burt's rink started slowly and was 9 shots down after 11 ends. The impetus then changed on both rinks and the match with Ron's rink 1 shot down and Keith's 1 shot up resulting in a tie.



The first mixed friendly was played away at North Petherton. Mike Green's rink lost narrowly by three shots but the second rink suffered a heavy defeat. Wedmore are looking forward to getting their revenge when the reverse fixture is played in December. A second mixed friendly was played at home against Chew Stoke. This was a very one-sided match resulting in a big Wedmore win. Maureen Hordle, S Wilkinson, T Collingwood and Julie Masters won by 30 shots to 10 with

T Counsell, Ann-Marie Wilkinson, Audrey Birch and Derek Skelton winning 31-3.

Play has also started in three national club competitions. In all of these, four rinks play, with two playing at home and two away. In the men's competition, the Denny Cup, Wedmore played Street. In the home games K Hall, K Burt, K Pettit and R Barron had a comfortable win by 18 shots to 8. The other home rink lost 16 – 23 but it was enough to give Wedmore a win at home by three shots. Unfortunately, the two rinks playing away lost by a total of 45 shots giving Street a comfortable 49-91 win.

The ladies played Victoria (WsM) in the Yetton competition. One of the away rinks needed to play a day early as Victoria only have one indoor rink. Julie Collins, Carole Pettit, Trish Newell and Julie Masters got the team off to a good start winning by 19 shots to 11. On the day of the competition, the two rinks played at Wedmore were evenly matched. Monica Green, Barbara Disbrey, Margaret Barron and Maureen Hordle won 19-18 but the other rink, skipped by Shirley Wederell, lost 18-20. Disappointingly, after the good start, the second away rink lost 10-19 leaving Victoria the overall winners by 68-66. Wedmore also fielded a team in the mixed

competition, the Egham, in which they played a very strong Clevedon team. All four Wedmore rinks were outplayed and lost heavily.

Wedmore men also play in the Somerset County Indoor League playing in the first division. This is again played two rinks at home and two away. In their first match against St Andrews, both home rinks lost by a total of 29 shots. The two away rinks were able to cover this largely due to a big 33-5 win by K Hall, D Stansfield, K Pettit and S Heeley. On the other rink, A Birch, J Runciman, R Newell and C Moss always kept in touch to win 24-22. The match finished with a one shot win for Wedmore, 86 shots to 85.

November sees the start of Saturday night Social Bowls with supper and the first round of the club Triples Competition takes place on the weekend of 26 - 27 November. If you are interested in trying indoor bowls, new members are always welcome.

Sandra Moss

Wedmore Junior Football Club

The Wedmore Junior Football Club wishes to thank the relatives and friends of the recently deceased Geoffrey Harris for their generous donation to the Club. It is intended to put the bulk of the money where it is most needed, which is for new goals. However, we are also purchasing a cup which we will have engraved the 'Geoffrey Harris Trophy'. This will be awarded at the annual Junior Football Awards Evening to the boy or girl who has been voted the most improved player over the course of the season.



Jim Cavanagh
Chairman Wedmore JFC

Church News

Light Up a Life Service

On Sunday 4 December at 3.00pm St Mary's will be hosting a special service for St Margaret's Hospice.

When you have lost someone very close to you, Christmas can be a very poignant and special time for sharing memories with those you hold dear. Over the years, St. Margaret's has devoted itself to helping people honour the memories of departed friends and family with a series of uplifting services of remembrance. The service will include a mixture of carols and readings. All are welcome to attend and tea is served afterwards. For further details please go to <https://www.somerset-hospice.org.uk/lual>.

Travelling Crib

During December figures of Mary and Joseph plus their donkey will be seeking for homes to stay for a night during that symbolic Advent journey towards Bethlehem. The Travelling Crib is a tradition from South America, where it is called POSADA

and is all about offering Mary and Joseph hospitality on their journey, and in so doing, opening one's home and heart to the stranger and to God.

If you want to host Mary and Joseph for a night, please telephone 713745 or 712144.

'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Tuesday 20 December, the vicar will be conducting the next 'cycle prayer pilgrimage', cycling around the different villages and hamlets that make up the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore that our churches serve, stopping at various points and praying for the particular communities. Details of timings can be found in the churches and you are welcome to join him at any of the stops.



Parish Registers

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of:

Iris Leigh who died in July 2016 and whose burial of ashes took place at Christchurch on Saturday 15 October 2016.

Wilf Webb of St Medard Road who died on 29 September 2016 aged 94 and whose funeral took place at St Mary's on Monday 17 October 2016.

Phyllis Bethell of Theale who died on 4 October 2016 aged 91 and whose funeral took place at Christchurch on Thursday 19 October 2016.

Donald James of Chapel Allerton who died on 12 October 2016 aged 80 and whose funeral took place at Sedgemoor Crematorium on 24 October 2016.

Pamela Meadows of Bagley who died on 14 October 2016 aged 74 whose funeral took place at Christchurch Theale on the 2 November 2016.

Church Services

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 8.45am

Sunday	4	Advent 2	10.30 am	Parish Communion & Gift Service
			3.00 pm	Light Up a Life Service (Hospice)
Sunday	11	Advent 3	10.30 am	Parish Communion
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Wednesday	14		6.00 pm	Crib Service
Sunday	18	Advent 4	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.30 am	Family Service
			6.30 pm	Carol Service

Saturday	24	Christmas Eve	5.00 pm	Christingle Service
			11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Sunday	25	Christmas Morning	10.30 am	Family Communion

Junior Church welcomes children aged 4-11 on the fourth Sunday of each month, while a supervised crèche for pre-school children runs on special occasions.

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday	4	Advent 2	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	11	Advent 3	9.00 am	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	18	Advent 4	4.00 pm	Christingle
Monday	19		6.30 pm	Community Carols
Sunday	25	Christmas Day	9.00 am	Family Communion

Christchurch, Theale

Sunday	4	Advent 2	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	11	Advent 3	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
Saturday	17		6.00 pm	Christingle & Community Carols
Sunday	18	Advent 4	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	25	Christmas Day	11.00 am	Family Communion

Allerton Church

Sunday	4	Advent 2	9.00 am	Family Service
Sunday	11	Advent 3	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
			4.30 pm	Christingle Service
Sunday	18	Advent 4	9.00 am	Parish Communion
			6.30 pm	Carol Service
Sunday	25	Christmas Day	9.00 am	Family Communion

Revd Richard Neill, Vicar of the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore can be contacted on 713566.

Special Advent and Christmas Services at the Churches of the Isle of Wedmore

Sunday 27 November	6.30 pm	Holy Trinity	Blackford Advent Carol Service
Sunday 4 December	3.00 pm	St Mary's	Hospice Light Up a Life Service
Sunday 11 December	4.30 pm	Allerton Church	Christingle
Monday 12 December	6.00 pm	St Mary's	Wedmore First School Academy Carol Service
Wednesday 14 December	6.00 pm	St Mary's	Wedmore by Lamplight Crib Service
Thursday 15 December	7.00 pm	St Mary's	Hugh of Sexey Carol Service
Friday 16 December	9.30 am	Holy Trinity	Hugh of Sexey Carol Service

Saturday 17 December	6.00 pm	Christchurch	Christingle & Community Carols
Sunday 18 December	9.00 am	Allerton Church	Nativity Play
	4.00 pm	Holy Trinity	Christingle
	6.30 pm	Allerton Church	Carol Service
	6.30 pm	St Mary's	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
Monday 19 December	6.30 pm	Holy Trinity	Village Carols
Saturday 24 December	5.00 pm	St Mary's	Christingle
	11.30 pm	St Mary's	Midnight Mass
Sunday 25 December	9.00 am	Holy Trinity	Christmas Morning Communion
	9.00 am	Allerton Church	Christmas Morning Communion
	10.30 am	St Mary's	Christmas Morning Communion
	11.00 am	Christchurch	Christmas Morning Communion
Friday 6 January	7.00 pm	Christchurch	Epiphany Carol Service
Sunday 8 January	9.00 am	Allerton	Gift Service

(Gifts of toys and toiletries at these gift services will be sent the Salvation Army)

Revd Richard Neill, Vicar of the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore can be contacted on 713566.

Bagley Baptist Church

Every Sunday 10.30 am morning service. Groups for 3-15s. Please check the website for any last minute changes to normal service times and dates, particularly during the winter weather.

Every Wednesday, 10.00am-12.00noon is our really popular 'Coffee With A View'. Come for free coffee and homemade cakes, our wonderful view and a warm welcome. Bring a friend, or come and make some new ones here. We have good parking and wheelchair access. Please note 'Coffee with a View' will still take place on 21 and 28 December.

Christmas Dates

Christmas Eve - 7.00pm Candlelit Carols, followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

Christmas Day - 10.15am Family service. Kids, bring an unopened present.

Sunday 1 January - 6.30pm service. No morning service.

We have various Bible studies and youth groups which we'd love to tell you about!

For details, please telephone 710779 / 712812 / 713267

Email contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk, or come and see us at www.bagleybaptist.co.uk.

Bagley Baptist Church 710779 / contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk

Wedmore Methodist Church

Carols & Candlelight

Concert Wednesday 7 December	7.00pm	
Sunday 4 December	10.30am	Preacher Helen Wade
Sunday 11 December	10.30am	Preacher Rev Roly Sims
Sunday 18 December	10.30am	Preacher Local arrangement
Sunday 25 December		No Service

Crickham Baptist Church

Every Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday School
	6.30 pm	Evening Service
Carol Service Sunday 18 December	6.30pm.	All welcome
Sunday 25 December		Christmas Day No Service,
<i>Contact Dulcie Hooper on 712187.</i>		

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Cheddar

Thursday	10.00 am	Mass
Friday and Saturday	9.30 am	Mass
Saturday	10.00 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sundays	9.00 am	Mass

The confirmed Mass times at Our Lady Queen of Apostles are:

Christmas Night Mass on 24 December at 9.00pm and Christmas Day service at 9.00am.

Contact Father Philip Thomas - telephone 709244

Axbridge and Wedmore GP Practice

Surgery Opening Times

Wedmore Surgery

Mondays and Fridays 8.30am to 6.00pm
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.30am to 1.00pm
Telephone 712774

Axbridge Surgery

Monday to Fridays 8.30am to 6.00pm
Telephone 732464 - Please note the surgeries are closed on Bank Holidays.

Extended Surgery Hours

The practice offers an extended opening hours service. This extra service is being offered in response to the wishes of patients expressed in the Patient Surveys. During the 'Extended Hours' a GP will be available for routine appointments outside normal

surgery times. These appointments are not for emergencies or to see a Nurse, they are dedicated to those patients who find it difficult to attend during normal surgery hours.

Extended hours surgeries are held:

Axbridge Surgery

Wednesday and Thursday Alternate weeks 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Wedmore Surgery

Wednesday and Thursday Once a month 7.00am to 8.00am

Saturday Alternate weeks 8.00am to 9.30am

Please note, these hours may be subject to change depending on the availability of doctors.

Please visit the website at www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk, or visit / telephone the practice 732464 or 712774 for changes to opening hours and information on how to contact a doctor or get medical help during the Christmas and New Year period.

You can also obtain 24 hour general medical advice by telephoning NHS 111, or visit the NHS 111 website.

During extended hours the front door will be locked. Please ring the video doorbell for access. Access will only be granted to patients with pre booked appointments. Surgery telephones are not manned during extended hours.

Wedmore Community

The Wedmore Community Bus is available for everyone, travelling to Taunton (Tuesdays), Bridgwater (Wednesdays), Weston super Mare (Thursdays) and Street (Fridays).



The service acts less like a bus and more like a personal taxi service. You get on and off wherever you tell us is the most convenient place - usually outside your own house. Travel is free if you have a current bus pass. If you have to pay, then fares compare very favourably with alternative forms of transport, saving money on fuel and parking. For example, the 50-mile round trip to Taunton is only £4.80.

The bus departs from Wedmore at 9.30 am and is back by early afternoon - leaving plenty of time for those needing to collect children from school. To book a seat, ring the friendly controller between 6.00 pm and 6.30 pm on the evening before your journey:

Controller Taunton	Angeline Duckett	712631
Controller Bridgwater	Thelma Jenkins Jones	710467
Controller Weston super Mare	Mike Bewick	713745
Controller Street	Rosy Brooks	713697

The bus is also available for private hire. It can be booked by contacting Jo Keen, 710759

What's On in the Parish

2 - Fri	Mr Punch's Folk Club - Open Mic	8.00pm	The Panborough Inn
	Limelight Night - Open Mic at the George	8.00pm	The George
3 - Sat	Christmas Fayre	9.30am	St Mary's
	Children's Society Box Opening	10.00am	St Mary's
4 - Sun	St Margaret's Hospice Service	3.00pm	St Mary's
5 - Mon	Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Group	9.30am	The Scout Hut
	Turnip Prize Final Judging	6.30pm	The New Inn
	Green Wedmore Meeting	8.00pm	The George
6 - Tues	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George
	IOW Gardening Club AGM & Christmas Supper	7.00pm	Masonic Hall
7 - Wed	Camelot Quilters	10.00am	Wedmore VH
	Carols and Candlelight Concert	7.00pm	IOW Methodist Church
9 - Fri	Allerton Players - Wake up to Christmas	7.00pm	Weare Memorial Hall
10 - Sat	Wedmore in Bloom Coffee & Mince Pies	11.00am	The Dining Room
	Concert by the Burnham & Highbridge Brass Band	7.30pm	St Mary's
11 - Sun	Holy Trinity Church Breakfast	8.30am	Blackford VH
12 - Mon	Wedmore Knitting & Quilting Group	9.30am	The Scout Hut
14 - Wed	Blackford Village Hall Café	2.00 - 4.00pm	Blackford VH
	Probus	10.15am	Golf Club
	WEDMORE BY LAMPLIGHT	6.00pm	St Mary's and The Borough
15 - Thurs	WI Meeting, Guest Speaker Dr Barry Rose	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
16 - Fri	Mr Punch's Folk Club - Christmas Open Mic	8.00pm	The Panborough Inn
17 - Sat	Theale Community Café	10.00am	Theale VH
	Rock Concert by Kindred	9.30pm	The George
18 - Sun	Theale Film Club - Film Jungle Book	6.30pm	Theale VH
19 - Mon	Wedmore Knitting & Quilting Group	9.30am	The Scout Hut
20 - Tues	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The George
21 - Wed	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	The Council Rooms
24 - Sat	CHRISTMAS EVE		
25 - Sun	CHRISTMAS DAY		
26 - Mon	BOXING DAY		
31 - Sat	NEW YEAR'S EVE		

December 2016

Regular Weekly Events

MONDAY				
Fitness2Unique (2 Classes)	9.15am & 6.00pm	Blackford VH	Rane & Lisa	07977 415799 07801 272255
Art Group	2.00 - 4.00pm	Wedmore VH	Chris Midford	01749 712522
Modern Dance	4.00pm	Blackford VH +	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204
Beavers	5.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Bridge Club	7.00pm	Masonic Hall	Thelma Jenkin-Jones	01934 710467
Scouts	7.15pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
TUESDAY				
Fitness2Unique	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
Yoga	10.00am	The Swan Inn	Jo Willis	07552 711101
Tuesday Club	10.30am	Masonic Hall	Sue Freeman	01934 741861
Ballet Classes	4.00pm	Blackford VH +	Bristol Ballet Centre ashermann99@hotmail.com	
Acting Up Drama Club	3.45pm	Wedmore VH +	Lou Merryfield	07973 429947
Cubs	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Circuit Training	7.30pm	Blackford VH	Nigel	07776 82231
Cardiodance	7.30pm	Wedmore First School	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204
WEDNESDAY				
Fitness2Unique	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
Rainbows	4.30pm	Wedmore VH +	Gail Millard	01934 713922
Brownies	6.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Lisa Hall	01934 713566
Guides	7.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650
Yoga	8.00pm	Blackford VH	Sandra Mailey	01934 712686
THURSDAY				
Wedmore & Blackford Toddlers	9.30am	Blackford VH +	Abbe Smith	01934 710471
Yoga	10.15am - 11.45am	Scout Hut	Shane Allen	01275 790175
Life Drawing Class	10.00am	The Swan	Lily Sawtell	
Over 50s Dance Group	10.30am	Wedmore VH	Pat Taylor	01934 713430
Ballet Classes	3.45pm	Blackford VH +	Bristol Ballet Centre	0117 960 5844
Cubs	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
FRIDAY				
Fitness2Unique (2 Classes)	9.15am & 6.00pm	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
Tots and Tinies	9.15am	Wedmore First School +	Jo Page	01934 710431
Wedmore Art Group	2.00pm	Masonic Hall +	Eileen Sanders	01934 710353

+ Not taking place during school holidays